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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 (ISO) W
--------- 080873
P R 181715Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3358
INFO
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NY
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
FOSIF ROTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3371

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, MR, SP,SS
SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: FURTHER ALGERIAN REACTION TO SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL

1. SUMMARY: GOA GAVE COLD SHOULDER TO SPANISH EMISSARY SENT TO EXPLAIN APPARENT SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL ON SAHARA. FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL PREDICTS THAT SPANISH CABINET WILL SPLIT OVER AGREEMENT AND THAT CORTINA WILL RESIGN. SECOND OFFICIAL NOTES ANACHRONISTIC MOROCCAN CONCEPTS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND THIRD STRESSES THAT BATTLE NOT YET OVER. PRESS CALLS FOR MAGHREB OF PEOPLES ASED ON REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT AND IMPLIES THIS DOCTRINE TO REPLACE MAGHREB OF STATES AND NON-EXPORTATION OF REVOLUTION AS BASIS OF GOA'S MAGHREB POLICY. DE FACTO RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS BY ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES AT FRONTIER. WE HAVE IMPRESSION ALGERIANS CONFIDENTIAL

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STILL UNSURE HOW TO PROCEED, AND NOT YET CLEAR IF THEY

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WILL SUPPORT PROTRACTED GUERRILLA STRUGGLE IN SAHARA.
END SUMMARY.

2. SPANISH EMISSARY VISITS ALGIERS: ON NOV 15 JOAQUIM GUTIERRIEZ CANO, SPANISH MINISTER FOR PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT, VISITED ALGIERS CARRYING A MESSAGE FROM GOS. ON ARRIVAL GUTIERRIEZ CANO SAID HE WAS CARRYING MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, BUT HE WAS FORCED TO SETTLE FOR TWO-HOUR SESSION WITH INDUSTRY AND ENERGY'S MINISTER ABDESSLAM.

3. ABDESSLAM COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR NOV. 18 ON GUTIERRIEZ CANO VISIT. GUTIERRIEZ CANO DID INDEED HAVE MESSAGE FOR BOUMEDIENE. HOWEVER, WHEN HE TOLD ABDESSLAM WHAT IT SAID, AND WHEN LATTER INFORMED BOUMEDIENE, PRESIDENT SAID EMISSARY SHOULD BE SENT HOME. A FON MINISTRY OFFICIAL SPECULATED NOV. 18 THAT SPANISH CABINET WOULD SPLIT ON ISSUE OF DEAL AND THAT FON MINISTER CORTINA WOULD RESIGN.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION: IN CONVERSATION NOV. 17, FON MIN SEC GEN BENHABYLES RAISED SAHARA AND CRITICIZED MOROCCAN EMOTIONALISM AND ATTACHMENT TO OUTMODED CONCEPTS OF SOVEREIGNTY, NOTABLY MOVABLE FRONTIERS. "GRAND MAROC" IDEA CHAMPIONED BY ONE MOROCCAN POLITICAL PARTY (APPARENTLY ISTIQLAL) EXAMPLE OF SUCH THINKING.
BY CONTRAST, ALGERIAN ADHERENCE TO SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE WAS RATIONAL AND IN STEP WITH MODERN THINKING ON QUESTIONS OF NATIONALISM AND STATEHOOD. SECOND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INSISTED NOVEMBER 17 THAT, WITH ACTION NOW SHIFTING TO UN, GOA DID NOT CONSIDER BATTLE LOST. OVER THREE MONTHS REMAIN, OFFICIAL NOTED, UNTIL ANNOUNCED DATE OF SPANISH WITHDRAWAL FROM COLONY.

5. PRESS REACTION: PRESS ATTACKS ON MOROCCAN-SPANISH DEAL CONTINUE WITH MOROCCO BEARING BRUNT OF FIRE. WEEKLY ARABIC LANGUAGE EDITION OF OFFICIAL EL MOUDJAHID COMMENTED THAT SINCE 1965, ALGERIA HAD RESPECTED PRINCIPLES OF NON-EXPORTATION OF REVOLUTION AND OF A MAGHREB OF STATES. PIECE NOTED REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT PRESENT IN ALGERIA,
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LIBYA, MAURITANIA AND SAHARA AND SAID ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY OF COUNTERING IMPERIALIST DESIGNS WAS TO BUILD A MAGHREB OF PEOPLES ON BASIS OF THIS SPIRIT.

6. ALTHOUGH IT NOT REPORTED DIRECTLY, KING HASSAN'S NOVEMBER 17 SPEECH WAS SUBJECT OF EDITORIAL IN NOV 18 EDITION OF DAILY EL MOUDJAHID. EDITORIAL SAID MADRID AGREEMENT WAS UNJUST AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC AND

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HAD SETTLED NOTHING. INVASION OF SAHARA, IN PAPER'S VIEW, ONLY FIRST STEP IN MOROCCAN RULERS' DESIGNS WHICH ENVISAGED GREATER MOROCCO FROM TANGIER TO SENEGAL RIVER AND TO TIMBUKTU VIA TINDOUF AND BECHAR.

7. F POLISARIO: MEDIA OVER WEEKEND FEATURED INTERVIEW WITH F POLISARIO SEC GEN OUALI. OUALI DENOUNCED APPARENT SPANISH-MOROCCAN DEAL IN PREDICTABLE TERMS AND CALLED FOR UN MISSION TO VISIT SAHARA TO SEE THAT SAHRAOUIS WERE MASTERS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND WERE FACED WITH THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY BY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

8. RESTRICTIONS AT ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER: ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER CROSSING POINT AT MAGHNIA BETWEEN ORAN AND OUJDA CLOSED DE FACTO, IF NOT DE JURE, ON ALGERIAN SIDE TO ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS. TECHNIQUE USED BY ALGERIANS IS TO REQUIRE UNOBTAINABLE DOCUMENTATION FROM PERSONS SEEKING TO CROSS. OTHER NATIONALITIES APPARENTLY BEING ALLOWED THROUGH.

9. COMMENT: FOR MOMENT, GOA SEEMS SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED. ALGERIANS WILL PRESUMABLY WAGE VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SAHARA AGREEMENT AT UN, BUT IT IS HARD TO SAY WHAT THIS WILL YELD THEM IN CONCRETE TERMS. SIMILARLY, F POLISARIO REMAINS MILITANT BUT CLAIMS NO NEW SUCCESSES.

10. TOO EARLY TO TELL YET WHETHER ALGERIANS WILL OPT FOR PROTRACTED STRUGGLE WITH MOROCCANS FOR SAHARA. IN CONVERSATION NOV 17, FOREIGN MINISTRY SEC GEN BENHABYLES TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT, UNLESS SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE RESPECTED, SAHARA WOULD BE CONSTANT SOURCE OF TENSION AND TROUBLE IN REGION.
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